



**Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into
the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.**

Matthew 4:1

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

11:00AM

Concordia Lutheran Church, Conover, NC

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation with confidence in the Words of our Lord Jesus, who gives not only bread and wine but his true body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm (1Cor 11:27-29). Reception of Holy Communion here at Concordia is a public confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Those who are not yet baptized, instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand.

OPENING HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” 657

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father, and the Son T and the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 43:3–4, 5b; 61:1–2a

P Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer;

C from the end of the earth I call to You when my heart is faint.

P Send out Your light and Your truth; let them lead me;

C let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your dwelling!

P Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy,

C and I will praise You with the lyre, O God, my God.

P Hope in God; for I shall again praise Him,

C my salvation and my God.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P Let us make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C **Merciful Father, our Lord and King, we are sinful people.**

We have inherited the legacy of original sin from our first parents, Adam and Eve, who disobeyed You in Eden. We are by nature sinful and unclean. In our daily lives we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We sincerely repent of our sins and humbly ask Your grace and forgiveness in Jesus Christ. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to change what is sinful in our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and godly living to the glory of Your holy name.

P God is gracious and forgiving. He has shown His merciful power in ways that renew, restore, and heal. To those who come to Him with repentant and contrite hearts, our Lord says, “Fear not!” and promises pardon, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

C **Amen.**

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray,

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

We sit.

ANTHEM

“The Fruit of the Spirit”
“Behold I Have Loved You” Bill Wolaver
CCDS PS-3, PK-4, Kindergarten

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 3:1-21

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Pew Bible pg.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 32:1–7; antiphon: v. 7a

L Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

L I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

C **Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to You at a time when You may be found; surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; You preserve me from trouble; You surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

EPISTLE LESSON

Romans 5:12-19

P This is the Word of the Lord.

Pew Bible pg.

C **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

VERSE FOR LENT



C Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for He is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

Pew Bible pg.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

After the Gospel is read:

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

We sit.

HYMN OF THE DAY “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” 418

SERMON

“Falling For Bad Advice” Pastor Michael Geml

We stand.

CREEDAL STATEMENT

The Third Article

P The Gospel appointed for the First Sunday in Lent begins by telling us that “Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil” (Matthew 4:1). These words remind

us of the close interworking of the three Persons of the Holy Trinity all through the earthly life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we confess the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the work of the Holy Spirit and also speak the words from Luther's Small Catechism regarding the work of the Spirit.

C I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

P What does this mean?

C I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

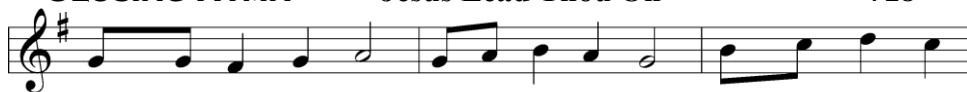
CLOSING PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

“Jesus Lead Thou On”

718



1 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won; And al-though the
2 If the way be drear, If the foe be near, Let not faith-less
3 When we seek re - lief From a long-felt grief, When temp - ta - tions
4 Je - sus, lead Thou on Till our rest is won. Heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, We will fol - low calm and fear - less.
fears o'er - take us; Let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing, Make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing.
still di - rect us, Still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



Guide us by Thy hand To our fa - ther - land.
For through man - y a woe To our home we go.
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.
Till we safe - ly stand In our fa - ther - land.

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POSTLUDE